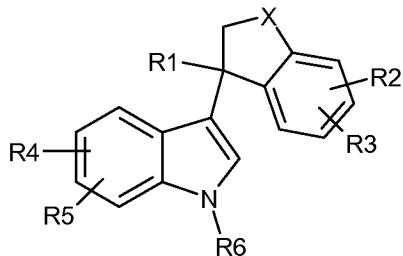


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



Formula I

wherein,

X represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂O-, -CH₂S-, or -CH₂NR¹⁰-;

R¹ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine;

R² represents hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle;

R³ represents hydrogen, halo, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle;

R⁴ represents ~~hydrogen, halo, amino, nitro, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, NHSO₂R⁷, NHCOR⁸, or COR⁹NHSO₂CH₃~~;

R⁵ represents hydrogen or halo;

R⁶ represents hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

R⁷ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl, aryl, NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine;

R⁸ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, or aryl(C₁-C₄)alkoxy;

R⁹ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl or (C₁-C₄)alkoxy, and

R¹⁰ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein X represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂O-, or -CH₂S-.

3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 2 wherein X represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, or -CH₂O-.

4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 3 wherein X represents -CH₂- or -CH₂CH₂-.

5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 3 wherein X represents -CH₂O-.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R¹ represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine.

8. (Original) The compound according to Claim 7 wherein R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-NH(C₁-C₄)alkylamine, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-N,N-(C₁-C₄)dialkylamine.

9. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R² represents hydrogen, halo, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle.

10. (Original) The compound according to Claim 9 wherein R² represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, propyl, or isopropyl.

11. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R³ represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, or bromo.

12. (Original) The compound according to Claim 11 wherein R³ represents hydrogen or fluoro.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R⁶ represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl.

19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a disorder selected from the group consisting of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure, inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension, asthma, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 26 wherein the disorder is diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure, inflammation, hypertension, or rheumatoid arthritis.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of treating atherosclerosis comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of N-[3-(1-Ethyl-5-fluoro-indan-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, N-[3-(6-Fluoro-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, N-[3-(6,8-Difluoro-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, N-[3-(4-Ethyl-7-fluoro-chroman-4-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, and N-[3-(1-Cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-indan-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.